

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

It is believed the amendments to the claims overcome the §112, second paragraph rejections.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Erbkamm et al. (Erbkamm). Claims 4 and 5 were rejected under the same statute over Erbkamm in view of Schwindt. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Schwindt discloses two embodiments as shown in figures 1 and 2, none of them having a flat cover 10 of the shield 20, and in no embodiment is a coating cylinder, present and none of the rotating means is fastened to the cover (or ceiling) 10.

Schwindt discloses three chambers. Figure 1, the middle chamber has a guide cylinder 32 which is no coating cylinder but just a means to assist the radial partition walls 44, the lowermost chamber is the coating chamber, and the web runs freely suspended by the idler rolls 68 through this chamber in a triangle. This is necessary, because the web is coated in one run on both sides, which would be prevented by a coating drum or cylinder. Such a coating cylinder shields a web against coating from the rear side, and is heavy and expensive, but, beneficially, it can be cooled to counteract the heat developed by the coating source in order to protect the web against thermal damage. According to the invention, the coating cylinder 9 hangs with its front bearing on the flat cover or ceiling 10.

Such a vertical arrangement with these elements

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